

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: February 23, 2000

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on February 11, 2000

FROM: William E. Muno, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Francis X. Lyons
Regional Administrator

David A. Ullrich
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, and training/conferences:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

**Construction and Cleanup Complete, Commercial Oil Service
Incorporation Site, Oregon, Ohio**

On December 20, 1999, a final site inspection was conducted by Sheila Sullivan at the Commercial Oil Service Incorporation site in Oregon, Ohio. Potentially responsible parties (PRPs) funded the two-phased \$30-million non-time critical removal action. Phase I consisted of demolition of the boiler and process buildings, the loading rack, and a radio tower; and, removal of several underground tanks and the above-ground oil and solvent tank farm. Phase II involved the treatment and discharge of water and leachate; construction of onsite Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)-approved containment cells for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB)-contaminated dewatered sludges and soils; stabilization of about 200,000 cubic yards of contaminated sludges and soils placed in landfill cells covered by a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) hazardous waste landfill cap; placement of clean fill, regrading, and seeding; fencing of landfill areas; institutional controls; and, groundwater and remedy monitoring programs.

A regional newspaper article indicated that Oregon City council members who recently toured the site were pleased with the results of the removal. The final PRP construction report is currently being reviewed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Region 5, and a Pollution Report is expected during the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2000.

Contacts: Sheila Sullivan (312-886-5251)
Richard Murawski (312-353-6721)

**Consent Decree Entered (Past Costs & Remediate Groundwater),
Organic Chemicals, Inc. Superfund Site, Grandville, Michigan**

On February 7, 2000, Judge Enslen signed the consent decree and entered it as a final judgment in U.S. v. Abitibi Price Corporation, et al., Civil Action No. 1:99-CV-428, U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan, Southern Division. Under the Abitibi Price consent decree, 43 parties settled their potential liability to the United States in connection with the Organic Chemicals, Inc. (OCI) Superfund site in Grandville, Michigan, pursuant to Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Sections 106(a), 107(a) & 122(a).

Under the terms of the Abitibi Price consent decree, the settling defendants shall complete the groundwater remedy for the OCI site, and shall pay virtually all of the U.S. EPA's costs, less consideration for an orphan share that the U.S. EPA decided the settling defendants were to receive. Specifically, the consent decree provides that settlors shall pay the U.S. EPA Superfund \$3.3 million in past costs, interest on the \$3.3 million since the time of the CERCLA Section 122(e) Special Notice and Demand letter, and U.S. EPA's costs in overseeing settlors' performance of the groundwater remedy.

Contacts: Jerome P. Kujawa (312-886-6731)
Thomas Williams (312-886-6157)

**Complaint Settled, Zoll Foods Corporation (Subsidiary of
ConAgra, Inc.), South Holland, Illinois**

On February 7, 2000, U.S. EPA filed a Consent Agreement and Final Order to resolve the Administrative Complaint that was filed on June 17, 1999, against Zoll Foods Corporation (a

subsidiary of ConAgra, Inc.), South Holland, Cook County, Illinois. The Complaint alleged that the Respondent failed to immediately notify the National Response Center about a 1,100 pound release of anhydrous ammonia that occurred on August 23, 1998. The notification was over three days late. The Respondent has agreed to pay a cash penalty of \$14,000 to Superfund. The payment must be made within 30 days.

Contact: James Entzminger (312-886-4062)

Carbon Dioxide Injection System Installed, Fisher-Calo Superfund Site, Kingsbury, Indiana

Construction of a carbon dioxide injection system was completed for seven groundwater extraction wells and began operation in January 2000 at the Fisher-Calo Superfund site in Kingsbury, Indiana. The installed carbon dioxide system was needed to prevent extreme iron precipitation and fouling that was occurring in the extraction wells and pumps.

The Fisher-Calo site remedy involves a pump & treatment system for four groundwater plumes and enhanced soil vapor extraction of soil areas. The property had been used for solvent recycling operations.

Contact: Jeff Gore (312-886-6552)

Meeting, Community Advisory Group, DePue/New Jersey Zinc/Mobil Chemical Corp. Superfund Site, DePue, Illinois

On February 9, 2000, Dan Blanco, Chairman, opened the meeting of the DePue Community Advisory Group (CAG) for the DePue/New Jersey Zinc/Mobil Chemical Corp. Superfund site in DePue, Illinois. Jim Frank, who represents the DePue Group, a group of potentially responsible parties (PRPs), gave updates on the interim water treatment plant upgrade, stormwater runoff diversion, phosphogypsum stack closure, remedial investigation of the soil and groundwater and the village water line. Dr. Sabine Lowe, Illinois State University, gave a presentation on mutagenicity and future effects of heavy metals exposure on the white-footed mouse. Dr. Lowe is looking for Superfund sites to conduct research.

The CAG agreed to have the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA)/U.S. EPA, DePue Group, CAG, and Illinois

Department of Natural Resources explain, as it relates to the CAG, their role, goals, responsibilities, and expectations. Each group should be ready to discuss these items at the April 19, 2000, meeting. At the March 15, 2000, meeting, the PRPs will discuss the proposed land use for the DePue site (the CAG will have a members only meeting beforehand to formulate questions and strategy for the PRPs to consider).

Contact: Oliver Warnsley (312-886-0442)

OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

U.S. EPA Science Fair Judges, St. Mary's School, Park Forest, Illinois

On January 20, 2000, U.S. EPA Staff from the Office of Public Affairs, the Water Division, and the Superfund Division (Brownsfields and Documents Management Sections) participated as judges in the Science Fair at St. Mary's School in Park Forest, Illinois. Displays prepared by seventh and eighth grade students were judged by U.S. EPA staff and other community groups.

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TRAINING/CONFERENCES

Headquarters' Review, Region 5 Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Program, Chicago, Illinois

On February 8, 2000, Kathy Jones and Bill Finan representing the Headquarters (HQ) Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Office (OCEPP) conducted a review of the Regional OCEPP program. The visit to Region 5 was part of a HQ initiative to visit and review all 10 Regional Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention programs. During their visit to the Regional Offices, they met with the Superfund Division Director, William Muno, the Regional OCEPP program manager, Mark Horwitz, and the Region 5 OCEPP program

staff. Topics that were discussed included measures of success, program direction, implementation of the risk management planning provisions of Section 112(r) of the Clean Air Act, and assistance needed from the HQ OCEPP Office.

Contact: Mark Horwitz (312-353-9045)

Ice Storm Exercise, Camp Atterbury, Indiana

Glenn Cekus, Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention (OCEPP), participated in this exercise as a U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) member of the Department of Defense (DOD) Regional Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer (REPLO) team. The REPLO team regularly writes and conducts disaster exercises that test the ability of DOD service units to provide support to civilian authorities, particularly the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) during a Presidential disaster declaration.

The exercise scenario involved a severe ice storm and blizzard impacting the southeastern corner of Michigan, particularly the Detroit metropolitan area. Mr. Cekus acted as the controller for Emergency Response Function 10, Hazardous Materials, of the Federal Response Plan. In this capacity, he provided relevant information regarding U.S. EPA, USCG, and Canadian Coast Guard oil and hazardous materials response operations, capabilities, and procedures to the DOD players in the exercise. He also assisted the Department of Transportation controller by providing expertise on USCG helicopter assets in the area and in establishing safety zones in rivers impacted by spill response operations.

Contact: Glenn Cekus (312-353-6449)

Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention National Program Manager's Meeting, San Francisco, California

On January 25-27, 2000, the Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention National Program Manager's Meeting was held at the Region 9 Offices in San Francisco, California. Mark Horwitz represented the Region 5 Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention (OCEPP). The primary focus was on the implementation of the risk management planning provisions of the Clean Air Act (CAA). This was a working meeting which was structured around 6 breakout

sessions. These sessions laid the framework for subsequent workgroups that would address the issues in greater detail. Staff members from OCEPP will represent Region 5 on workgroups that will focus on developing measures for success, a strategic vision for chemical safety, and the development of an enforcement response policy for section 112(r) of the CAA.

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